

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair
House Committee on Corporations
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7476 – Agricultural Equipment Right to Repair Act

Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association (RINLA) and its almost 200 member companies, I write to express our support for H7476, legislation that would require manufacturers of agricultural and landscape equipment to provide owners and independent repair providers with access to the tools, parts, and diagnostic information necessary to maintain and repair their equipment.

RINLA represents a diverse group of small and medium-sized businesses across Rhode Island's green industry, including landscape contractors, nursery operators, garden centers, and related service providers. Our members rely heavily on specialized equipment—ranging from mowers and compact loaders to irrigation and planting machinery—to operate efficiently and serve their customers.

Timely repair and maintenance of this equipment is not a convenience; it is essential to business continuity. During peak seasons, even short periods of downtime can result in lost revenue, project delays, and workforce inefficiencies. Unfortunately, many of our members face increasing barriers to repair due to manufacturer restrictions on diagnostic tools, software, and parts. These limitations often force businesses to rely exclusively on authorized dealers, which can lead to longer wait times and higher costs.

H7476 would help address these challenges by ensuring that equipment owners and qualified independent repair providers have fair access to the resources needed to diagnose and fix equipment issues. This increased access will:

- Reduce costly downtime for small businesses
- Promote competitive repair markets and lower costs
- Extend the useful life of equipment
- Support local repair professionals and small service businesses

Importantly, this legislation supports Rhode Island's small business community without compromising safety or intellectual property protections, as similar laws in other states have demonstrated.

Rhode Island's green industry plays a vital role in maintaining our state's landscapes, supporting environmental stewardship, and contributing to the local economy. Providing our members with the ability to efficiently repair their equipment is a practical, pro-business step that will strengthen these contributions.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support H7476.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc F. Bialek, MBA

Executive Director

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Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association